

The Woods Watch

Visit Our Website at <http://www.sardiswoods.org/>

Sardis Woods Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume V, Issue 2

June, 2009



CRIME TRENDS

The Charlotte – Mecklenburg Police Department, Independence Division, Response Area 2
monthly community letter

We continue to see an increase in Larceny From Autos and Auto Thefts. Arrests have been made in some of these cases.

Larceny from Auto is one main problem we are seeing in our Response Area. You can help us reduce these numbers and keep yourself from being a victim of a Larceny From and Of Auto by following some basic rules:

- Always lock your vehicle – a large number of these, the victims report leaving their vehicles unlocked.
- Do not leave any items in plain view.

Example: Leaving your GPS suctioned to the window, your iPod sitting on the front seat, your pocket book, book bag, etc in plain view. Please take these items with you.

Residential Burglaries continue to be a concern of many folks. If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood, please call 911 and report it. One of the ways for officers to positively identify stolen items is by make, model and serial number. If you purchased a new item like a computer, GPS, iPod or Flat Screen TV, write down the make, model and serial number of these items and any other item of value and keep that list in safe place. It isn't important where or how you record your serial numbers, it is important that you do record them and have them accessible should you need to provide them to police.

UPDATE ON SUNNYWOOD LANE SPEED HUMPS

Budget issues have delayed the installation of the Sunnywood Lane speed humps. Charlotte DOT anticipates a late summer installation if nothing changes.

ZONING CHANGE REQUEST ON SARDIS ROAD

A request for a zoning change involving a property on Sardis Road has been alerted to Dave and Judy Clark. The property is a vacant lot that has been graded for some time and had for sale signs on it. It lies between the Swim Club and the Natural Gas facility there. The development company is requesting an "institutional" code rather than the current R-3 status. They intend to build a "Senior Day Care Facility" (no overnight stays) on that property but it does involve the need for a change in zoning status.

The following four Neighborhood Informational meetings have been scheduled for **PETITION # 2009-050**

- **June 8 - 5 pm** at the Government Center up-town 600 E. Fourth - 8th Floor conference room
- **June 11 - 6 pm** at Fletcher School on Sardis Road (close to the site in question)
- **July 20 - 6 pm** City Council meeting at the govt. center - City Council Chambers - 600 E. Fourth
- **July 29 - 4:30 pm** - zoning work session - 600 E. Fourth - CH 14 in the basement

All these meetings are open to the public.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BLOCK

Everyblock – A new way to keep track of what's happening on your block, in your neighborhood and all over your city... <http://charlotte.everyblock.com/>



GET THE LATEST NEWS, LINKS AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION ON THE SARDIS WOODS WEBSITE

AT: <http://www.sardiswoods.org/>



LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

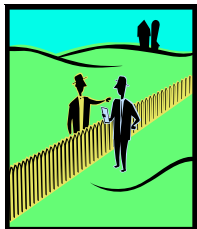
Summer flowers were planted at the Covedale and Sunnywood entrances in early May. The rain in May has been a relief to the new plants and to the volunteers who agreed to help with watering - Nancy Kute, Mark Beard, Elaine Falcone, and Pat and Dennis Carter. Thank you for your willingness to help!

Landscaping is an ongoing process. After planting the flowers and mulching the beds, we have to be on the lookout for slugs, weeds, wilting and other threats to our beautification efforts. If you are walking or driving by and spot a problem at one of the signs, please let us know!

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Katie Prastaro



GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS IN THE WOODS

In an effort to get to know the folks in our neighborhood, we are going to showcase a neighbor each issue. Recently I asked one of my own neighbors to tell us a little about herself. I am sure all of you know the house Yvonne lives in- on Covedale Drive. The one with the beautiful white picket fence and lovely gardens. Here is a little bit about Yvonne, I hope you enjoy and say "hello" when you pass....

“While we moved here from California four years ago, the garden only properly started taking shape two years ago when we put up the white picket fence. I’ve always been a gardener, and my garden here in Sardis Woods isn’t too different from what I would have at home in England. The flower

beds are filled with roses, geraniums, lantanas, impatiens and foxgloves all growing into each other in the English cottage garden style. I use a lot of evergreen shrubbery so there’s still color in the wintertime and a selection of bulbs which bloom throughout the year. As I plant seeds directly in the ground, it’s always a delight to see where and what they sprout. Another surprise I enjoy incorporating into my garden are the herbs laced in between the flowers in the bed. Their fresh aromas catch your nose when you least expect it as you meander on through. It’s not all pretty flowers, though; I’ve incorporated many bird baths and bird feeders to attract a cuter form of insecticide than you buy at the garden center. This year I am enjoying my adventure of the previous spring in the back garden; peaches and plums. Not only are the trees themselves getting taller and wider every day, but it’s hard to remember a time when the ground around them wasn’t covered in fruit. Gardening is so enjoyable for me because I find it relaxing...and you’re all quite welcome to come through the gate of the white picket fence and enjoy it too.” - Yvonne

... AND ANOTHER NEIGHBOR CONDUCTS WALKING TOURS

Sardis Woods neighbor Russ Ford conducts free, guided walking tours of uptown Charlotte every Friday as a volunteer at the Visit Charlotte visitor center. The tours begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and last about an hour and a half. If you'd like to join Russ on one of these tours, give him a call at 704-847-3302. The Friday tours are for individuals and families. Tours for organized groups can be scheduled on other days. For complete information go to www.charlottetour.org.

HEART BEET

Do you carrot at all for me?
My heart beets for you,
With your turnip nose
And your radish face.
You are a peach.
If we cantaloupe, lettuce marry.
Weed make a swell pear.

NEW RESTAURANTS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

New restaurants are popping up everywhere in our area, and we in Sardis Woods get to reap the tasty benefits.

Riga's Diner, located at 10030 Monroe Road, is new to the restaurant scene in the Charlotte/Matthews area. It's just up the street from Sardis Woods, located in the same shopping center as the new Firestone. If you haven't tried it yet, go check it out!

Riga's has an extensive menu selection ranging from all-day breakfast selections to burgers, fries, salads and homemade dinner favorites. They make milkshakes and homemade desserts too, including baklava, carrot cake, strawberry shortcake and other sweet treats. Riga's has a diner atmosphere with several booths and a lunch counter. The day's desserts are nicely displayed in a glass case and are very tempting..... be sure to save room. The wait staff is very attentive and customer oriented. Our waitress was friendly, helpful and was good at suggesting menu items. However, she didn't allow any substitutions.

Some menu selections that we sampled and reviewed are below:

· Chicken scampi over rice was excellent, with huge portions, including two chicken breasts and a salad for \$8.



Strawberry Shortcake was delicious!



Meatloaf was incredible; it includes a choice of two veggies and was only \$5.75



Gyros were wonderful.



Chocolate milkshake was good and thick.

- Chicken platter (under Mediterranean Delights) was fabulous.
- Neapolitan wrap is also highly recommended.
- Baklava was good, fresh and authentic but, a little chewy.
- Grilled swiss cheese on rye was yummy. It came with a teeny tiny side of coleslaw and a pickle.

Be sure to check out Riga's sometime for good food at reasonable prices.

Riga's is open daily, Monday –Thursday from 6am-9pm, Friday and Saturday 6am-12am and Sunday 7am-6pm.

For more information:

Check out their website at: www.letseat.at/rigasdiner or (704) 841-TOGO.



Please remember to frequent the **Caffeine Highway**, on the corner of Sardis Road North and Krefeld Drive. They are local family-owned and are sponsors of **The WoodsWatch Newsletter**, with the money going to the landscaping committee.

GARDEN, GARDENING AND VEGETABLE JOKES

Q: Where did the vegetables go to have a few drinks?

A: The Salad Bar.

Q: What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin pi.

Q: Why did the tomato turn red?

A: Because it saw the salad dressing!

Two men were talking one day. "My wife asked me to buy ORGANIC vegetables from the market garden," said the first man.

"So were you able to find some?" the second man asked. "Well when I got to the market, I asked the gardener, "These vegetables are for my wife. Have they been sprayed with any poisonous chemicals?"

The first man continued, "The gardener said: "No, you'll have to do that yourself."

The woman applying for a job in a Florida lemon grove seemed way too qualified for the job. "Look Miss," said the foreman, "have you any actual experience in picking lemons?" "Well, as a matter of fact, yes!" she replied. "I've been divorced three times."

One spring morning, my husband and I were in the garden looking at the flowers he had just planted. As luck would have it, a bird flew over us leaving his calling card on my clean white shirt. When I showed my husband, he didn't miss a beat and said, "You know, Dear, they sing for most folks."

Did you hear about the little sweet potato that fell madly in love with Peter Jennings?

Her folks wouldn't let her marry him 'cause he was just a common tater.

"I think," said the sweet potato, "therefore, I yam"

FREE FUN THINGS TO DO IN CHARLOTTE

Matthews Summer Concert & Movie Series

- June 13th Charlotte Symphony
- June 20th Madagascar II Movie—Rated PG
- July 4th Too Much Sylvia - Variety Band
- July 11th Tale of Despereaux Movie—Rated G
- July 18th Cruize Control Beach, Blues & Boogie
- July 25th Karate Kid Movie—Rated PG

All Dates and Events are Subject to Change

<http://www.matthewsfun.com/>
704.321.7275

All concerts begin at 7 PM.

Pre-Movie activities begin at 7 PM,

Movies begin approximately 8:30 PM or dusk.

Vendors will be on site selling dinner food, treats and drinks.

NO PETS PLEASE

ATTENTION DOG AND CAT OWNERS

As you know, a great deal of care goes into maintaining a family pet including vaccinations, meals, walks and, yes, the dreaded clean up. If not attended to, the feces left behind can become a health hazard. Did you know that pet feces have been linked to highly elevated levels of coliform and streptococci bacterial pollution in storm runoff? Also, please consider the aesthetics of feces lying on our sidewalks and in our yards, not to mention the areas of grass killed by the high levels of nitrogen. Given the many reasons mentioned, the **best place for pet droppings is in a landfill where their impact can be controlled.** Please remember to clean up after your pets!